January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to add my comments to the many that your office is no doubt receiving regarding the settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I cannot help but think that, should this lawsuit have dragged on any further, there would have been serious and damaging repercussions to all other businesses engaged in the IT field. Fortunately, this settlement was reached at a time where such repercussions were thus far at a minimum, and the most serious effects dealt with a faltering of consumer confidence.

Many people have long been annoyed at Microsoft's policy of disallowing any competitive software to be pre-loaded with its Windows OS, but this settlement addresses that issue. It standardizes the licensing arrangements for the 20 largest hardware companies, and thereby generates competition for consumers.

I am writing in support of the settlement, and hope that this sort of litigation does not happen again.

Sincerely,

Lou Borland

Internal Network Engineer

Jours W. Borlal

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